



United States Department of Agriculture
Forest Service



PACIFIC SOUTHWEST REGION

Restoring, Enhancing, and Sustaining Forests in California, Hawaii & the Pacific Islands

Plumas National Forest - Mt. Hough RD

Plumas National Forest and Sierra Institute for Community & Environment Partnership: P-CREW

(Plumas Conservation, Restoration, and Education in Watershed)

East Meets West: Session 1

The link between the Bay Area and northern Sierra Nevada is better than gold; it's the water. High up in the Feather River watershed, rural mountain youth (east) converged with Bay Area urban youth (west) to form a unique alliance. The Plumas Conservation, Restoration, and Education in Watershed (P-crew) came together to restore public lands on the Plumas National Forest and Lassen Volcanic National Park.

P-crew is comprised of twelve students, ages fifteen to eighteen, brought together to have high impact on public lands. Most of the work completed was part of the Moonlight, Rich, and Storrie Fire Restoration Project areas. During the five weeks, P-crew completed thirty acres of covering logging slash piles, prepared over thirty hand-piles for fuels reduction at Antelope Lake, hand-pulled nearly twenty-thousand invasive weeds (Spotted knapweed & Yellow starthistle-4.1 acres), installed two new deer guzzlers in partnership with the Mule Deer Foundation, painted a campground amphitheater, moved signs, brushed three miles of the Pacific Crest Trail (PCT), and completed three acres of fuels reduction in an owl protected activity center which also protects small communities in the Feather River Canyon. They also learned about fire ecology, fire-adapted ecosystems, wildlife biology, archaeology, mining, and wildland firefighting.

The program is a partnership between Plumas National Forest, Sierra Institute for Community and Environment, and the National Park Service-Lassen Volcanic NP (not fire restoration funded).

Objectives:

- Provide students with marketable natural resource skills.
- Student participation in design of recreation features and products.
- Provide opportunities for integration of curriculum.
- Teacher learning about natural resource topics.
- Build new relationships and enhance partnerships already in place.



P-crew students placing a deer guzzler



P-crew students building hand-piles for fuels reduction at Antelope Lake

Connection to Fire Settlements:

Students help restore natural and recreation resources and landscape

Funding:

Storrie & Moonlight Fire Settlements: \$242,000 partnership agreement

Partners:

- Sierra Institute for Community & Environment
- Plumas National Forest
- Lassen Volcanic National Park (not fire restoration funded)
- Community partnerships
- Additional student employment



P-crew completed deer guzzler installation



Students cover large logging slash piles



P-crew at Plumas Helitack 512 base



Students learn about helicopters from Plumas Helitack crew



Students remove fuels in Spotted owl habitat



Students remove Yellow star-thistle

For more information on the Storrie Fire Restoration Projects, visit: www.fs.usda.gov/plumas, then scroll to "Features," and "Storrie Fire Restoration Project." For more information on this project, contact: Michele Jimenez-Holtz (530) 283-7643, mjimenezholtz@fs.fed.us; or Ashly Bomar (530) 284-1022, abomar@sierrainstitute.us

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East Meets West—Session 2

Session 2 of the Plumas Conservation, Restoration, and Education in Watershed (P-crew) continued work on projects that Crew 1 started in June: the restoration of public lands on the Plumas National Forest and Lassen Volcanic National Park.

P-crew is comprised of twelve students, ages fifteen to eighteen, brought together to have high impact on public lands. Most of the work completed was part of the Moonlight, Rich, and Storrie Fire Restoration Project areas. During the second five weeks, P-crew completed thirty acres of covering logging slash piles, preparation of over thirty hand-piles for fuels reduction at Antelope Lake, hand-pulling an acre of invasive plants in campgrounds, installation of a new deer guzzler in partnership with the Mule Deer Foundation, completed brushing three miles of the Pacific Crest Trail (PCT), helping repair a damaged section of the upper Mill Creek Trail in Bucks Lake Wilderness, and 3 acres of fuels reduction in an owl protected activity center which also protects small communities in the Feather River Canyon.

The students helped complete a fence at Volcano Adventure Camp in Lassen Volcanic National Park just in time for the Park Service Centennial.

They also learned about fire ecology, fire-adapted ecosystems, wildlife biology, archaeology, mining, and wildland firefighting.

The program is a partnership between Plumas National Forest, Sierra Institute for Community and Environment, and the National Park Service-Lassen Volcanic NP (not fire restoration-funded).

Objectives:

- Provide students with marketable natural resource skills.
- Student participation in design of recreation features and products.
- Provide opportunities for integration of curriculum.
- Teacher learning about natural resource topics.
- Build new relationships and enhance partnerships already in place.



P-crew students prepping to install a deer guzzler



P-crew students placing a deer guzzler

Connection to Fire Settlements:

Students help restore natural and recreation resources and landscape

Funding:

Storrie & Moonlight Fire Settlements: \$242,000 partnership agreement

Partners:

- Sierra Institute for Community & Environment
- Plumas National Forest
- Lassen Volcanic National Park (not fire restoration-funded)
- Community partnerships
- Additional student employment



P-crew students help National Park Service Maintenance Workers build a fence at Volcano Adventure Camp, Lassen Volcanic National Park



P-crew compacting decomposed granite on Volcano Adventure Camp Accessible Trail, Lassen Volcanic National Park



P-crew at Plumas Helitack 512 Air Base



P-crew trail-brushing on upper Mill Creek Trail, Bucks Lake Wilderness

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Sierra Buttes Trail Stewardship/Lassen & Plumas National Forests Storrie & Moonlight Fires Restoration Agreement: *Inspiring stewardship through collaboration, education, and restoration* Teen Trail Masters

Imagine a 3/4 mile daily hike to work in the wilderness, hauling dirt, hands moving over stone to find the perfect rocks that fit. Enter the Sierra Buttes Trail Stewardship (SBTS) student crew. They have been going strong for five years doing trail work on the Plumas National Forest. These teens are some of the hardest-working in the northern Sierras. Inspired by the leadership of the SBTS organization, they haul rock and dirt, move immense boulders, install drainage systems, brush trails, and re-build trails that seem to be beyond repair.

Crew leaders are experts in trail restoration and well-rehearsed in backcountry safety. Students live in tents, cook their own meals, and practice Leave-No-Trace camping ethics. Food and transportation are provided. Due to recent staffing changes, SBTS pulled together a shorter session so as not to lose momentum for the summer youth program. The project was to repair a damaged section of the upper Mill Creek Trail in the Bucks Lake Wilderness Area, not far from Three Lakes and the Pacific Crest Trail.

The challenge was to repair the trail in one-week with the assistance of another 14-person youth crew, P-crew (see East Meets West-Part 2), and the Mt. Hough Ranger District trail crew. The three crews joined forces to get the project completed. Mission accomplished: the crews built twenty-four rock check steps, installed four rock drains and six rock check dams. They cleared 1,200 feet of trail and corridor, and improved 1,890 feet of trail.

Objectives:

- Provide students with marketable natural resource skills.
- Student participation in design of recreation features and products.
- Provide opportunities for integration of curriculum.
- Teacher learning about natural resource topics.
- Build new relationships and enhance partnerships already in place.



Students hiking to work along the upper Mill Creek Trail in Bucks Lake Wilderness Area



Students positioning a boulder in place

Connection to Fire Settlements:

Students help restore natural and recreation resources and landscape

Funding:

Storrie & Moonlight Fire Settlements: \$203,989 for five-year partnership agreement (all projects)

Next Steps:

- Expand opportunities to additional classes
- Continue curriculum development
- Website development
- Community partnerships
- Additional student employment



Working the trail



Before



After

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